



Homelessness Initiative Update

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Background

Denver is in a crisis of homelessness, including experiences of unsheltered homelessness

The 2023 Point in Time (PIT) count showed 1,423 people living unsheltered on Denver's streets in a single night

Deaths in populations experiencing homelessness grew by 50% this year



Housing is the Solution

Housing that is **safe and accessible** is the solution to homelessness

Non-congregate shelter and shelter alternatives = **connectors**

Goal: Bring 1,000 unsheltered residents indoors AND close those encampments by the end of 2023

How?

- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation** with 50+ city employees working collaboratively
- **10-person team of appointees** in the Mayor's office working exclusively to deliver this goal
- **Outreach and services** to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness to connect with shelter or housing options
- **Neighborhood and stakeholder engagement**



Mayoral Team Accomplishments

Accomplishments

- Oversaw more than 20 working group meetings with over 200 Denverites regularly serving as external partners during weekly meetings
- In partnership with City Council, scheduled and hosted 7 town halls in 4 council districts with at least one town hall scheduled in every district by Labor Day
- Two visits to encampments, including one with Mayor Johnston at 22nd and Stout

Working Group Updates

- **Service Providers**: Discussed partnership for scaling capacity for wraparound services in micro-communities
- **Land and Siting**: Identified potential locations for Tiny Home Villages, SOS Sites, and master leasing opportunities
- **Construction/Labor**: Planned and discussed innovative building and installation methods for projects
- **Business Leaders**: Identified ways to activate Denver business community
- **Faith Leaders**: Discussed opportunities to support volunteer efforts and donation drives
- **Unhoused Community and Advocates**: Identified best ways to support unhoused individuals and how to prepare for moving day

Emergency Declaration Issued

- State of Emergency Declaration declared on July 18, 2023
- City Council voted on July 24 to extend declaration through August 21, 2023

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activation

The Denver Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Information Center (JIC) activated July 24

Declaring a State of Emergency opens more avenues for the city to work collaboratively, find innovative solutions, and access funding and other resources

The EOC will lead the development of a detailed plan to bring 1,000 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness indoors this year

More than 50 city employees have been activated to work collaboratively on this issue in the EOC

On Monday, July 24, Denver City Council voted to approve the emergency declaration for four weeks, through August 21

Emergency Operation Center Day-to-Day

- The EOC develops an **EOC Action Plan** that is updated daily and tracks progress on key objectives and tasks
- Every morning, key employees meet to **review the action plans, delegate assignments, and report on progress made**
- As EOC staff work on tasks, a **multi-disciplinary approach** is strongly encouraged to leverage all possible resources
- The EOC also **dramatically accelerates cross-department decision making** by having all city departments in the same space at the same time
- The EOC also develops a **comprehensive project management plan** to establish deadlines and ensure the long-term success of this effort long after the EOC is deactivate

Outreach and Services to People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Relationship Building

While housing is being built, community partners and city outreach teams will build relationships with unhoused residents, provide housing assessments, and help identify next best steps

Move In Days

Deploying resources and volunteers to support individuals moving from encampments into indoor options

Continued Support

Welcoming new residents into neighborhoods post-move in day and continuously providing wraparound support services

Neighborhood and Stakeholder Engagement

It is vital to the success of this initiative that every Denver neighborhood be involved and play a role in this process, which is why Mayor Mike Johnston and members of City Council will hold public meetings to brainstorm solutions including discussing potential housing and shelter site options.

- Community meetings in all 11 council districts
- Meeting schedule at denvergov.org/house1000

Community Resources and Information

- The EOC regularly updates the initiatives website with new information, frequently asked questions, public town hall schedule, and status updates
- www.denvergov.org/house1000
- Community members can submit their questions and feedback to the online feedback form found on the website [here](#).
- Constituents can still report encampments via 311, and the EOC is coordinating with 311 to provide updated information

Priorities



Deploy an Encampment Resolution Program



Leverage Existing Housing Resources



Expedite Hotel Pipeline to Bring More Options Online Quickly



Scale Micro-Communities Across Denver



Utilize Congregate Shelter as Needed and Support Sheltering System

Priority 1: Deploy an Encampment Resolution Program

Target: 1,000 people enrolled in
encampment resolution
programs and connected to
housing/shelter



Tasks Completed and In-Progress

Completed tasks:

- Reimagined encampment closure procedures and support strategy prior to encampment resolution launch
- Successfully implemented two pilot programs for trash collection services in encampments

In-progress tasks:

- Finalize plans to provide additional sanitation and support services to encampments
- Working to deploy encampment by encampment approach to housing placement

Encampment Response Policy

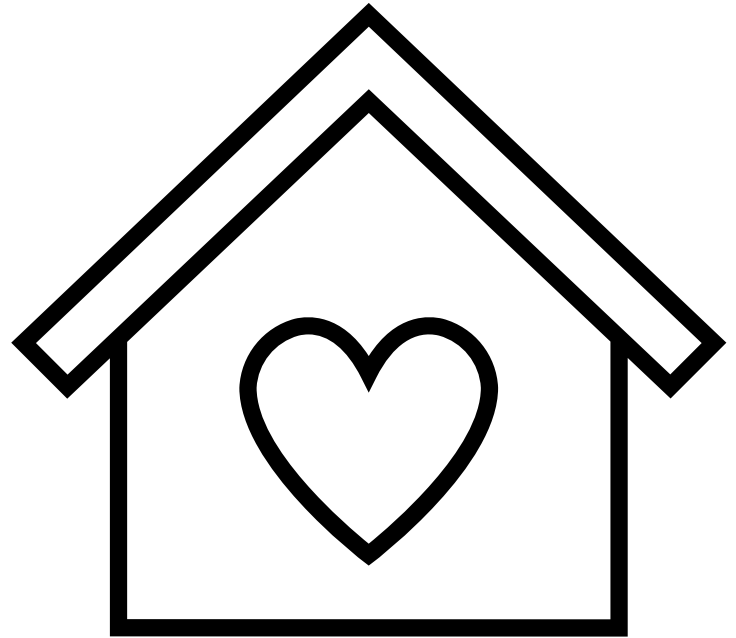
Prioritizing encampments with significant public health and safety risks, we have reimagined the city's encampment response procedures to ensure unhoused Denverites are treated with dignity and respect:

- 7-Day Notice Before Closure
- Outreach Letter to Residents
- Community-Based Trash Collection
- Personal Visit from Mayor Johnston
- HOST Outreach for Housing Assessments
- Wellness Winnie Outreach
- 7 AM Start Time

Priority 2: Leverage Existing Housing Resources

2023 Target: 500 people housed through available programs

Call to action: Property owner/manager engagement toward available units



Tasks Completed and In-Progress

Completed tasks:

- Organized and scheduled meeting with external service provider partners to identify how the city can better manage and utilize existing resources

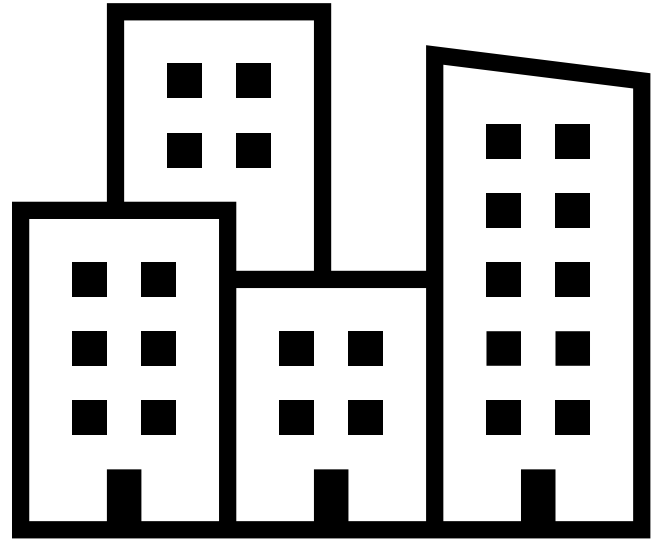
In-progress tasks:

- Identifying available housing resources through existing federal, state, and local programs
- Creating timeline and workplan to activate units with these resources

Priority 3: Expedite Hotel Pipeline to Bring More Options Online Quickly

2023 Target: 500 people served in non-congregate shelter in 2023

Additional options include permanent supportive housing, hotel conversions, tiny home villages, pallet shelters, and bridge housing opportunities.



Tasks Completed and In-Progress

Completed tasks:

- Partnered with DHA to successfully acquire 194-unit hotel to be used for permanent supportive housing and non-congregate shelter
- Submitted application to the State to receive federal ARPA dollars for a Navigation Center to help unhoused Denverites gain stability and identify housing options

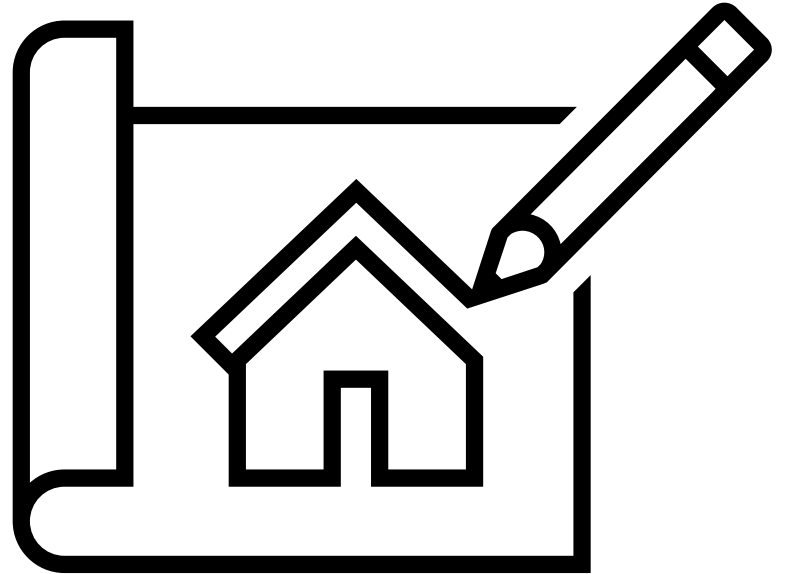
In-progress tasks:

- Working with operators, contractors and city agencies to bring projects online in 2023
- Engaging council members on zoning, permitting, and contracting requirements

Priority 4: Scale Micro-Communities Across Denver

Target: 500 beds at micro-communities across Denver in 2023

Call to action: Participate in community meetings listed at denvergov.org/house1000



Tasks Completed and In-Progress

Completed tasks:

- Met with external partners, including Xcel and Denver Water, to identify site needs and timelines for critical utilities in micro-communities
- Developed and release an RFP to bring property management and support services to micro-communities
- Consulted community experts and engaged city project managers with expertise in site prep, permitting, and construction to refine micro-community design and construction

In-progress tasks:

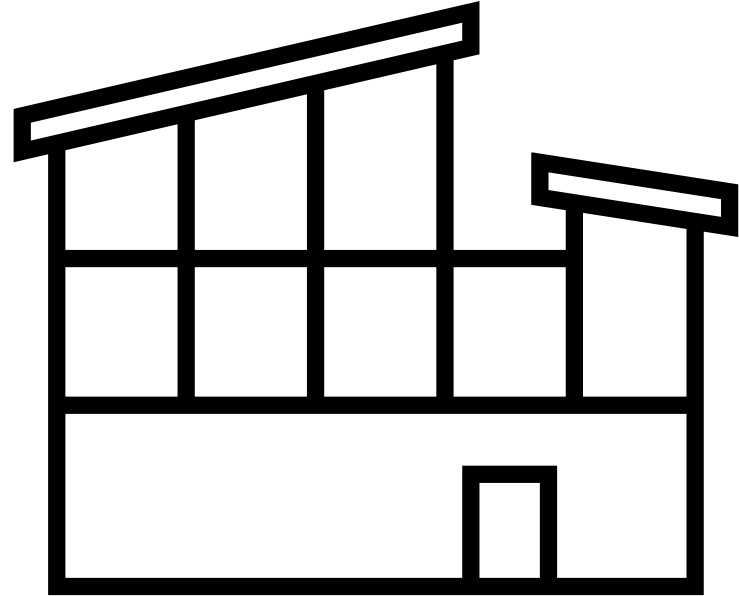
- Vetting options to co-locate micro-communities in the parking lots of hotels acquired for non-congregate shelter
- Developing and refining specifications for an RFP for tiny home procurement and construction
- Working with suppliers to provide pallet shelters that meet city requirements and can be delivered on the city's timeline
- Finalizing list of potential sites to be discussed with councilmembers and community

Priority 5: Utilize Congregate Shelter as Needed and Support Sheltering System

75% of Denver's persons experiencing homelessness are sheltered

With increased shelter utilization, the city and its partners will:

- Deploy rapid resolution resources
- Create flexible overflow shelter to bring people indoors
- Continue partnering with shelter operators to provide case management and other supports to connect to housing stability



Tasks Completed and In-Progress

Completed tasks:

- Utilizing DOTI on-call contractor to create architectural drawings for the possible use of hotel spaces for overflow congregate shelter as needed

In-progress tasks:

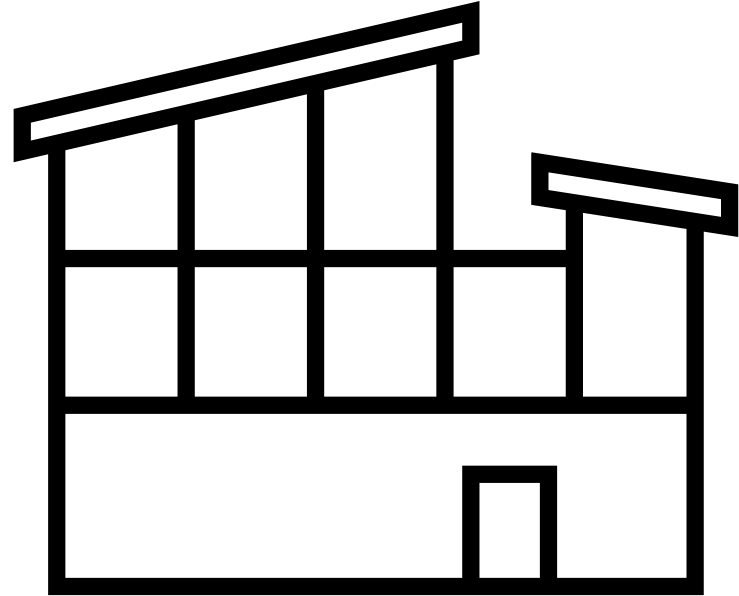
- Evaluating locations and feasibility of using existing hotel acquisitions to provide congregate shelter on an as-needed basis

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Funding

Proposition
123

American
Rescue Plan
Dollars

HOST
Resources

Additional
City Resources

Philanthropy

Private Sector

Tasks Completed and In-Progress

Completed tasks:

- Started the process to apply for Proposition 123 funds from the state by committing to build at least 1,400 units of affordable housing per year for the next three years
- Submitted application to receive \$35M in federal American Rescue Plan dollars to fund a Navigation Center

In-progress tasks:

- Reviewing existing funding, grants, and philanthropy to identify new or underutilized resources
- Mapping out options to expand the city's encampment resolution resources
- Continuing to expand upon a financial plan to address the expenditures required to deliver on our goal

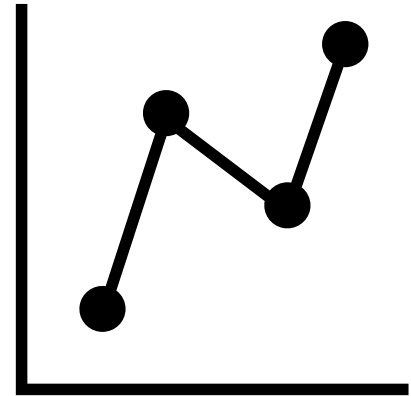
Tracking and Metrics

NavApp

- Will help measure the reduction in unsanctioned encampments

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Will track individuals who exit from unsheltered homelessness



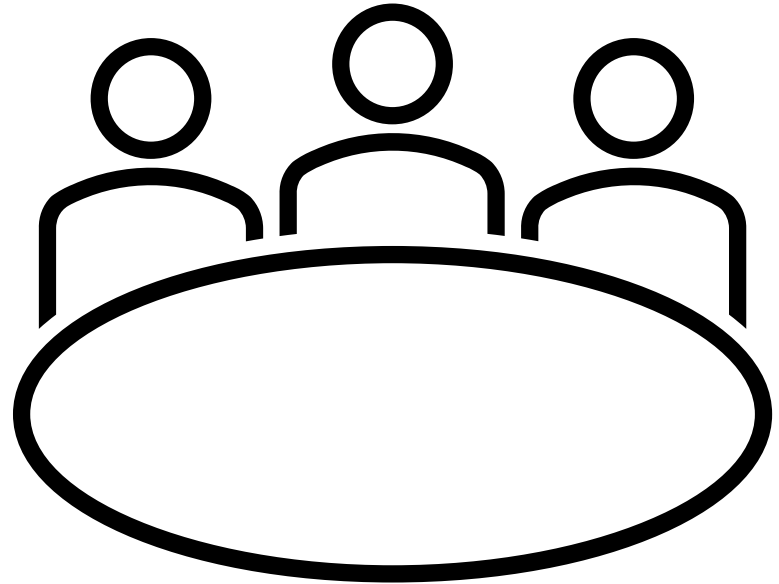
Council Collaboration

Council Action:

- Contract Approvals
- Rezoning Requests
- Lease agreements

Regular Collaboration:

- Cohost Public Town Halls
- Ongoing Individual Council Briefings
- Regular Mayor-Council and Executive Session Conversations



Emergency Declaration Extension

- Request forthcoming to extend the State of Emergency
- This will be necessary to continue the collaboration in the EOC and marshal resources/staffing to bring 1,000 people indoors



Questions?



Appendix

Broader Housing Strategies

In addition to this work on homelessness resolution, the City and partners are focused on broader housing stability strategies:

- Rent, utility, and eviction legal assistance
- Create new affordable housing opportunities at a variety of income levels

HOST will present more on its work at Safety Committee on Aug. 23

